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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,688	02/27/2002	Hiroshi Aoki	Q68731	1569

7590 08/27/2003
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/083,688

Applicant(s)

AOKI, HIROSHI

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 17 December 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 11.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urushibata et al. (4,963,699) in view of Yamamoto et al. (5,195,908).

Urushibata et al., figures 1 and 5, disclose a relay connector for connecting wires (6) to a flat circuit member (5) having a plurality of conductors (7), the relay connector comprising:

- a plurality of electrical connection terminals (10), each including at its rear end portion a wire connection portion (1) to which the wire is connectable, and at its front end portion a pair of piercing portions (3) to pierce the conductor of the flat circuit member; and
- an insulating housing (12) for receiving and holding the plurality of electrical connection terminals at an interval corresponding to an arrangement pitch of the plurality of conductors of the flat circuit member.

Urushibata et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for each pair of piecing portions pierces the plurality of conductors at one time and is bent back.

Yamamoto et al., figures 1 and 8, disclose a multicircuit cable connector a flexible cable (1) having a plurality of conductive strips (4). An U shaped clip (11) having sides (13) which are crimp through the conductive strips and bent back (as shown in figure 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urushibata et al.'s connector with the flexible cable and the U shaped clip as taught by Yamamoto et al., in order to provide the electrical connection between the terminal and the flexible cable.

Regarding claims 2, 6-7, 12 and 16, Urushibata et al., figure 5, disclose each pair of piercing portions is formed at a flat surface portion and forwardly from the insulating housing when the plurality of electrical terminals are received in the insulating housing and projects substantially upright (since the Applicant does not disclose each pair of piercing portions projects upright respect to what direction).

3. Claims 3-5, 8-10 and 13-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urushibata et al. (4,963,699) in view of Urushibata et al. (5,057,650).

Regarding claims 3, 8 and 11, Urushibata et al. ('699), figure 1, disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the insulating housing includes a housing body with a plurality of terminal receiving grooves and a housing cover.

Urushibata et al. ('650), figures 2 and 5, discloses a component (10) having a housing (12) with housing grooves (15) and a protective cover (20) which read on the insulating housing includes a housing body with a plurality of terminal receiving grooves and a housing cover. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urushibata et al. ('699) to have the component

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and the protective cover as taught by Urushibata et al. ('650) for significant savings in manufacturing and shipping storage.

Regarding claims 4, 9 and 14, it is noted that Urushibata et al. ('650), disclose each of the plurality of terminal receiving grooves includes a retaining projection (A, attachment) engaged with the electrical connection terminal to position the electrical connection terminal in an axial direction of the electrical connection terminal.

Regarding claims 5, 10 and 15, the combination of Urushibata et al. ('699 and '650) disclose each of the plurality of the electrical connection terminals includes an engagement portion engaged with the corresponding retaining projection.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

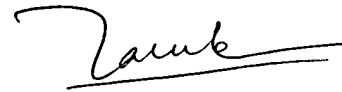
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Field can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

TL.
August 11, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thanh-Tam Le', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

Thanh-Tam Le

AU. 2839.

FIG. 1 PRIOR ART

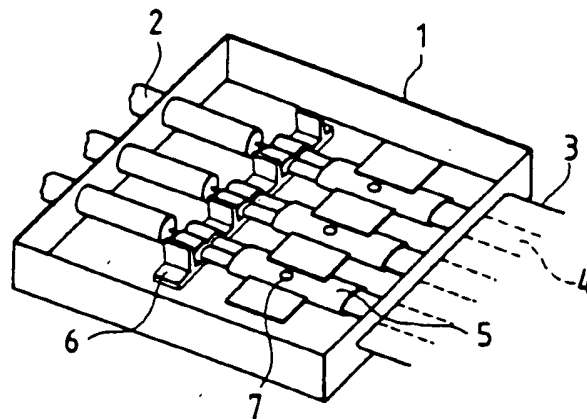


FIG. 2

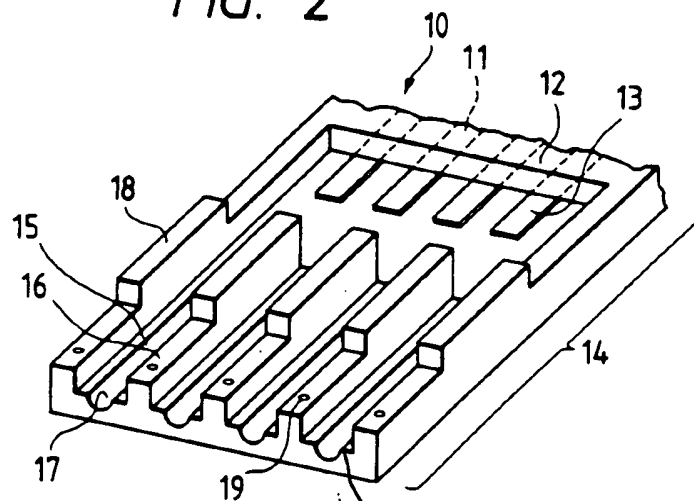


FIG. 3

